

Sierra Otomi

Sierra Otomi *AKA Highland Otomi* (*Otomi de la Sierra*) is a dialect cluster of the Otomi language spoken in Mexico by ca. 70,000 people in the highlands of Eastern Hidalgo, Western Veracruz and Northern Puebla. The speakers themselves call the language *Yŷhŷ* (Eastern Highland) or *Ñŷhŷ* (Texcatepec and Tenango).^[5] Lastra 2001 classifies it as an Eastern Otomi language together with Ixtenco Otomi, Tilapa Otomi, and Acazulco Otomi. The three varieties of Sierra Otomi—Eastern Highland, Texcatepec, and Tenango—are above 70% lexically similar; the Eastern Highland dialects are above 80%, and will be considered here.

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Distribution

Municipalities with significant Sierra Otomi populations include the following (Dow 2005:236). Many of these municipalities also have Tepehua, Totonac, and Nahuatl speakers.

Hidalgo

Veracruz

Sierra Otomi	
Highland Otomi	
<i>Yŷhŷ</i> (otm) <i>Ñŷhŷ</i> (otx, otn)	
Native to	Mexico
Region	Puebla, Veracruz, Hidalgo
Native speakers	(72,000 cited 1990–2007) ^[1]
Language family	Oto-Manguean - Oto-Pamean - Otomian - Eastern Sierra Otomi
Official status	
Regulated by	Secretaría de Educación Pública
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	Variously: otm – Eastern Highland otx – Texcatepec otn – Tenango
Glottolog	east2556 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/east2556) Eastern Highland ^[2] texc1235 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/texc1235) Texcatepec^[3] tena1241 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/tena1241) Tenango^[4]

- Acaxochitlan
- Huehuetla
- San Bartolo Tutotepec
- Tenango de Doria
- Tulancingo

- Benito Juárez
- Chicóntepec
- Coatzintla
- Coyutla
- Huayacocotla
- Ixhuatlán de Madero
- Temapache
- Texcatepec
- Tihuatlán
- Tlachichilco
- Zacualpan

Puebla

- Francisco Z. Mena
- Pahuatlán
- Pantepec
- Tlacuilotepec
- Tlaxco

Phonology

The phonemic inventory given below is based on the particular phonology of the Otomi de la Sierra dialect as documented by Voigtlander and Echegoyen (1985), phonemic inventories of other dialects vary slightly from that of Otomi de la Sierra.

Consonants

		<u>Bilabial</u>	<u>Dental</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Postalveolar</u>	<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Glottal</u>
<u>Nasal</u>		m		n				
<u>Stop</u>	<u>voiceless</u>	p		t			k	ʔ
	<u>voiced</u>	b		d			g	
<u>Affricate</u>	<u>voiceless</u>			t͡s				
	<u>voiced</u>			d͡z				
<u>Fricative</u>		ɸ	θ		ʃ		x	h
<u>Approximant</u>						j	w	
<u>Flap</u>				r				

Vowels

	<u>Front</u>		<u>Central</u>		<u>Back</u>	
	<u>oral</u>	<u>nasal</u>	<u>oral</u>	<u>nasal</u>	<u>oral</u>	<u>nasal</u>
<u>Close</u>	i	ĩ	ɤ		u	ũ
<u>Open-mid</u>	e		ø			õ
<u>Mid</u>	ɛ	ẽ			ɔ	
<u>Open</u>			ɑ	ã		

Notes

1. Eastern Highland (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/otm/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
Texcatepec (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/otx/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
Tenango (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/otn/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Eastern Highland Otomi" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/east2556>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Texcatepec Otomi" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/texc1235>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
4. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Tenango Otomi" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/tena1241>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
5. Lastra 2006 p 57, Wright Carr 2005

References

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